

### Remarks

By the present amendment, claim 78 has been cancelled and claims 80-87 have been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 66-77 and 79-87 will be pending in the application.

Claims 66-75, 77 and 79 have been rejected as being obvious over US 3516549 to MacDonnell in view of US 3506475 to MacDonnell, US 6165572 to Kahlbaugh and US 5552048 to Miller. Claim 76 has been rejected as being obvious over these references and also US 6331223 to Wylie.

The Examiner appears to contend that it would have been obvious to replace the "full length" perforated outer cover wrap 14 in US 3516549 with the US 3506475 netting 18 (but have it extend the entire axial length of the filter media) and to thermally bond this "full length" netting 18 to the radially outer peaks as is done in US 5552048.<sup>1</sup> However, nothing in these references suggests that the so-modified netting 18 could function as exoskeleton support. Quite significantly, US 3506475 teaches the use of the netting 18 only in combination with a perforated outer cover wrap 14 that is identical (or almost identical) to the to-be-replaced outer cover wrap 14 of US 3516549. Thus, if the prior art suggests anything, it suggests that the netting 18 could not function as the outer cover wrap 14 and can only be used in combination with another exoskeleton support structure. Accordingly, the proposed combination/modification would not have been obvious.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to now be in a condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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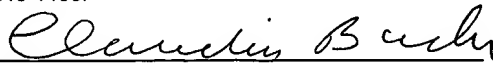
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1. The proposed combination also comprises replacing the kraft paper filter media with the cellulose-fiber-free and woven-mesh-free filter media of US 6165572.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Claudia Bader

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